

**Amendments to the Abstract:**

Please replace the Abstract with the following Abstract:

An absorbent article is provided, including a barrier layer, a cover layer extending substantially parallel to the barrier layer, and a superabsorbent polymer interposed between the cover layer and the barrier layer. The superabsorbent polymer is adhered to the article in a pattern configured to distribute fluid in the absorbent article, wherein at least one portion extending essentially completely across the absorbent article is substantially devoid of the superabsorbent polymer.